

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/820,066

Examiner

USMAAN SAEED

Applicant(s)

TAMAI ET AL.

Art Unit

2166

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 10/27/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-6, 14-15, 17-19 and 23-24 (renumbered as 1-12).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/13/2010.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/U. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 10/27/2009.

After thorough search and examination of the present application and in light of the prior art made of record, claims 1-2, 4-6, 14-15, 17-19 and 23-24 (renumbered as 1-12) are allowed.

Claims 3, 7-13, 16 and 20-22 have been cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney, Amir Rohani Registration No. 61,782 on January 11, 2010.

Please amend the claims, which were filed on 10/27/2009 with new versions as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus, comprising:
a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which contains information about a plurality of shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses being associated with the shared folders, wherein each of said

shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by one or more of the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

a search controller which executes searching of said shared folders;

a comparator which compares shared folders of a present search with those of a last search;

an updating controller which updates said states of the information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on present states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and a result of the comparison made by said comparator; and

a display unit which displays updated states of the information processing apparatuses;

wherein said states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include a power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus;

said updated controller updates the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus based on present ON/OFF states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and the result of the comparison made by said comparator;
and

said display unit displays updated states of information processing apparatuses in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

2. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a document reader which reads a document, and outputs image data; and
a communication controller which transmits the image data to said shared folders.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time.

5. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said updating controller changes the power ON/OFF state of an information processing apparatus into OFF state when a shared folder, which is stored in said shared folder management table associated with the information processing apparatus, was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

6. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a selection controller which allows selection of a destination to which image data is transmitted,

wherein, when said destination is selected, said display unit displays the updated states of the information processing apparatuses.

7-13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for information processing which is used to handle information about a plurality of information processing apparatuses interconnected by a network, said method comprising:

searching a plurality of shared folders stored in a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which includes information about the shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by one or more of the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network;

comparing shared folders obtained by a present search with those of a previous search;

updating said states of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table based on present states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and a result of the comparison; and

displaying the states of the information processing apparatuses in a manner according to the updated states thereof;

wherein, when states of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in said shared folder management table include a power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus, the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus is updated based on present ON/OFF states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and the result of the comparison and displayed on the display unit in a manner according to the updated power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus.

15. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

reading a document by a document reader and output the image data; and
transmitting image data to said shared folders.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein shared folder searching is executed at intervals of first predetermined time.

18. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, wherein, the power ON/OFF state of the information processing apparatus is changed into the OFF state, when a shared folder was found by the last search but is not found by the present search.

19. (Previously Presented) The method for information processing according to claim 14, further comprising:

selecting a destination to which image data is transmitted,

wherein, when said destination is selected, said display displays the states of the information processing apparatuses.

20-22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said search controller executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and executes the shared folder searching at intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.

24. (Previously Presented) A method for information processing according to claim 19, wherein said shared folder searching is executed at intervals of a first predetermined time when said destination is not selected, and said shared folder searching is executed at the intervals of a second predetermined time shorter than the first predetermined time when said destination is selected.

Reason for Allowance

3. The prior art made of record does not teach or fairly suggest the combination of elements, as recited in independent claims 1 and 14.

More specifically, the prior art of records does not specifically suggest the combination of "a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which contains information about a plurality of shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses being associated with the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by one or more of the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network; a search controller which executes searching of said shared folders; a comparator which compares shared folders of a present search with those of a last search; said updated controller updates the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus based on present ON/OFF states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and the result of the comparison made by said comparator;" as recited in

independent claim 1 and "searching a plurality of shared folders stored in a memory unit which stores a shared folder management table which includes information about the shared folders and states of a plurality of information processing apparatuses having the shared folders, wherein each of said shared folders stores image data therein and is shared by one or more of the plurality of information processing apparatuses connected to a network; comparing shared folders obtained by a present search with those of a previous search; the power ON/OFF state of each information processing apparatus is updated based on present ON/OFF states of the information processing apparatuses determined from the information about shared folders stored in said shared folder management table and the result of the comparison" as recited in independent claim 14 in combination with all the other limitations in the independent claims 1 and 14.

These features together with other limitations of the independent claim are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2, 4-6, 15, 17-19 and 23-24 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claims are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to USMAAN SAEED whose telephone number is (571)272-4046. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571)272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Usmaan Saeed/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166
January 15, 2010

Usmaan Saeed
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 2166

/Hosain T Alam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166